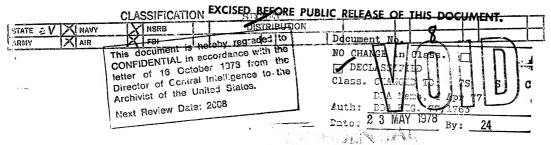


## inneuvering for Influence within the OeVP

- 1. Although a current of dissatisfaction with Leopold Figl as Federal Chancellor continues within the OeVP, there is no prospect of his removal before the spring of 1950. A new party convention is scheduled to be held at that time, and it is believed possible that the offices of Bundespartoiobrana and Bundeslanzler, both now held by Figl, may be separated. Figl might retain one of these positions, or he may be appointed Landeshauptmann of Lover Austria. The feeling of the OeVP leadership is that Figl's removal immediately after the elections would have a bad psychological effect. The question of a new term for Figl after the elections was not even discussed at the necting of the Landesleitung. Hien on 30 August 1949.\*
- Within OeVP ranks, Karl Gruber and Dr. Heinrich Gleissner, Landeshauptmann for Upper Austria, seen to be equally favored as the possible successor to Figl.

  Hurdes is not being considered at all as a candidate. Although he is a capable and respected man, his time is so taken up with the performance of official duties that he has no opportunity to build up political support; he spends little time in Vienna and does not have much contact with fellow party members. Of all the OeVP leaders, Gref is clearly making the most effort to succeed Figl. He is allogedly attempting to have Figl promoted to the sinecure of Federal President and is maneuvering to improve his own position with the OeVP by any means.\*\*
- Reports that Rudolf Eristofics-Binder, OeVP Henber of Parliament, will be expelled from the OeVP are absolutely infounded. On the contrary, he is strongly supported by Raab, and the Bundesleitung is making a vigorous effort to have Kristofics-Binder compets for an easy victory on a carefully selected election ticket for Lover Austria, since he was not selected for re-election from any Vienna district. Kristofics-Binder's election is important to the CeVP, since he is the only National rat in the party with working class support. \*\*\* The Dunder leitung is also attempting to ensure the election in Lover Austria of Karl Friedland Dr. Nadine Paunovic.

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## The CoVP and Peaner Newle

4. The opinion now of the OeVP Bundesleiting and of the group around Graf is that the wooing of the Masis by the party was a mistake. Fritz Zink recently stated that the Junge Front and its newspaper, which is costing 40,000 schillings per issue, are both failures and will be dissolved after the elections. Zink said that he was opposed to the present policy of the GeVP which permits the formation of separate organizations corresponding to various shades of opinion within the party. In connection with the Junge Front, it is reported that the group has been ungling a losing battle in its distinct moetings against representatives of the VDU (League of Independents) who have been successfully recruiting potential Junge Front nembers for their can organization. A rumor is circulating in the OeVP that Dr. Herbert Kraus, leader of the NDU, has received 3,000,000 schillings from the United States as a contribution to his election campaign fund.

## The More reivist Group within the CaVP

- 5. A Monarchist element which has been active within the CoVP has recently been formed into a subordinate section called "Referet for Cesterralchische Geschichte und Volkstum," or, more popularly, "Traditionsreferet." The leader of the group is Friedrich Ritter von Wiesner, a former state attorney and Austrian Foreign Service officer. Between the last two wars, he was a liaison agent between Archivice Otto of Hapsburg and high-ranking Austrian government officials. It is considered likely that Wiesner is in contact with Kraus of the VDU. The idea for the formation of this section originated with Felix Hurdes and Dr. Alfred Rasamas; its most active organizer has been Fran Professor Hittel. The OeVP has encouraged the "Traditionsreferat" which is considered a safety valve for Musarchist tendencies within the party and also a counter-balance against the Masis.
- 6. The nucleus of the new Morerchist section in the CoVP has been formed by morging two already existing organizations. One, the Cesterroichische Gewalsschaft, has 500 yembers. The leaders of this group are Kaerner in Graz, Wilhelm Schwidt in Salzburg, and Dr. Hittel and Dr. Sauer in Vienna. Sauer is the president of the organization and a pinnist of some reputation. The organization publishes a magazine called Die Nation. The second organization is called Helmatland and it rainly a hiking society. Its president is Erich Tammer of Minz, but the real leader is Maria Lang of Vienna, who acts as secretary. A Col. Becauser of Vienna is an active number.
- 7. Mostings of the section so far have indicated an interest in a sentimental reconstruction of Mommohist Ausuria, rather than any positive program for the future, and the section carries no weight politically. At a meeting held recently, Graf's representative in the section, Fritz Polear, made an eloquent speech, which was well received, in favor of the old days in Vienna under the Hapsburge. When a more constructive program was suggested by Dr. Alfred Massaug of the Corterrolchischer Verlag, however, it received no support from the members of the section.

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that at the meeting of OeVP Vienna headquarters on 30 August 1949, it was unanimously decided to oppose a new term for Figl after the elections.

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Commant: This account of candidates for Figl's position does not agree with a report from another source which gives the Parky's first choice as Graber, second choice, Hurdes, and third choice, Gleisoner. Graf's name is omitted entirely from the list.

25X1A case Connects The report of Kristofics-Binder's expulsion from the OcVP, although supported in the press, is in direct conflict with an account from another source which emphatically reports that Kristofics-Binder has been drupped from the OcVP. The same source goes on to say that an attempt to retain his seat in Parklianeat by offering a 100,000 schilling bribe to the OcVP was unsuccessful. At all events, however, Kristofics-Binder's name does not appear on the newly published electoral lists for Lover Austria. The OcVP is reported to have dropped Kristofics-Binder in order to avoid an aukward situation, since it had been learned that the Socialists intended to single out Kristofics-Binder for violent attack during the election campaign. He was allegedly responsible for arranging a meeting in 1946 between Reab and Figl on one side and Ernst

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